

REMARKS

The specification has been reviewed, and clerical errors of the specification have been amended.

On page 2 of the Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Motoe et al., and claim 5 is objected to.

In view of the rejection and objection, claims 4 and 5 have been amended. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled, and new claim 6 has been filed.

A stencil sheet transfer method of a stencil printing machine in claim 4 comprises the steps of: perforating a desired image while transferring a stencil sheet; transferring the perforated stencil sheet at a predetermined speed on a transfer path of the stencil sheet; detecting passing of the stencil sheet at predetermined positions of the transfer path and reducing a speed of transferring the stencil sheet less than the predetermined speed while further transferring the sheet and keeping perforation of the desired image on the stencil sheet; and winding the stencil sheet around a drum in a cylindrical shape.

Namely, in the invention, when the stencil sheet is detected at the predetermined positions while the stencil sheet is being perforated, the speed of transferring the stencil sheet is reduced from the initial speed, but not stopped, to further transfer the stencil sheet. In this reduced speed, the stencil sheet is wound around the drum.

In Motoe et al. cited in the Action, a mimeographic printing machine includes a stencil paper conveying device. In case the stencil paper sensor does not detect the presence of the stencil paper when the stencil paper is initially set, the stencil paper conveying device moves the stencil paper forwardly to detect a front leading end. In case the sensor detects the stencil paper, the stencil paper conveying device is moved backwardly until the

passage of the front leading end is detected and then moved forwardly again to detect the front leading end. Namely, in Motoe et al., the stencil paper is moved back and forth to locate the leading edge to the proper position.

In claim 4, when the stencil sheet is detected at the predetermined positions while the stencil sheet is being perforated, the speed of transferring the stencil sheet is reduced from the initial speed, but not stopped, to a different reduced speed while further transferring the stencil sheet. In this reduced speed, the stencil sheet is wound around the drum. In Motoe et al., the stencil paper is moved back and forth to locate the front leading end to the proper position, and the stencil paper is stopped at the proper position. Stopping the stencil paper in Motoe et al. is not the reduced speed to further transfer the stencil sheet. The features of claim 4 now amended are not disclosed or even suggested in Motoe et al.

It is believed that the rejection and objection are obviated, and the application is now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

One month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$110.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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